

NEW MEETING LOCATION

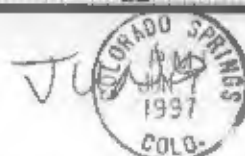
A new location has been found for the
PPRAA General Meeting!

We will be meeting at the Mt Calvary
Lutheran Church on 1318 N. Circle, Colo.
Sprgs, 80909

See inside for a MAP to the new location!

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

May 1997



FIRST CLASS MAIL

1 Renew before 03/31/98
RONALD DEUTSCH
NK0P
4305 RIDGELANE DR.
COLO. SPRGS., CO 80918



O-Beat



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Officers and Directors

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|----------------------|
| President: Jeff Boyes | N8JAH | 577-6029 | jboyes@usa.net |
| Vice-Pres: Aaron Pelouze | KD6FLM | 282-9715 | apkd6flm@aol.com |
| Secretary: | | | |
| Treasurer: Rob Roller | WB7WHT | 282-0284 | roller@usa.net |
| O-Beat Ed: Bill Pierce | KD0JU | 550-0406 | kd0ju-1@juno.com |
| Board Mbr: Les Borst | KC0NC | 634-3995 | lc0nc@juno.com |
| Board Mbr: Dennis Major | KB0EXC | 631-4774 | dennis.major@nci.com |
| Board Mbr: Mark Richardson | N8EPT | 442-0917 | markr@cofu.com |
| Board Mbr: Greg Tarcs | WA2OOD | 897-7064 | greg@col.hp.com |

*This Officer/Director is completing the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected.

The O-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see the last page of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page, \$48; Half page, \$24; Quarter page, \$12; Business card, \$6. These rates are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Check out the PPRAA page on the World Wide Web! Go to: <http://www.col.hp.com>

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements is the 20th of each month. Submissions are accepted in any form. Articles should be sent directly to the O-Beat Editor (email to kd0ju-1@juno.com is preferred.) Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

Field Day 1997 !

WHEN: Field Day Weekend - June 28-29, 1997

WHERE: Hewlett Packard Recreation Area (known as the Sourdough Recreation Area); 2 1/4 miles north of the intersection of Highway 24 and Highway 67 in Woodland Park, on the east side of Highway 67, just after "The Reserve at Tamarac", turn right on Sourdough Road. Follow it to the end of the road. Signs will be posted!

WHO: All amateurs and anybody else interested in a summer weekend camping in the Colorado mountains—with a lot of ham radio stuff thrown in for free!

WHY: ARRL sponsored annual event to test long duration emergency operations away from "normal" stations— and because it's FUN!

COST: Nothing! (no fees for use of the area or camping, etc.) But... please contact Mike Stansberry, KØTER at jma@col.hp.com if you wish to camp..

Committee Chairpersons/Contacts

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|----------|
| O-Beat Editor | Bill Pierce | KD0JU | 550-0406 |
| Activity | Renay Boyes | KA0ROY | 577-6029 |
| Auditing | Any Volunteer's? | | |
| Asst | Mike Stansberry | KØTER | 636-1290 |
| Historian | Harvey Hunter | WA3EIB | 597-8964 |
| Interference | Bill Petty | NØNJX | 591-2116 |
| Membership | Les Borst | KC0NC | 634-3995 |
| Programs | Aaron Pelouze | KD6FLM | 282-9715 |
| Publicity | Aaron Pelouze | KD6FLM | 282-9715 |
| Public Service | Mike Stansberry | KØTER | 636-1290 |
| Swapfest '98 | Carlos Caro | KBØREI | 632-1569 |
| Technical Instruction | Linda Hodges | KBØRKW | 520-9238 |
| VE Testing | Erik Muehle | KGØXE | 596-5345 |

Other Organizational Liaisons

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------|----------|
| ARES Liaison | Mike Stansberry | KØTER | 636-1290 |
| CCARC Liaison | Ron Deutsch | NKØP | 593-8352 |
| RACES Liaison | Bryan Curl | NØLUF | 575-8400 |

Reminder — General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be on the second Wednesday of this month at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 N. Circle Drive. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

FIELD DAY 1997

As you all know, Field Day is scheduled for 28-29 Jun 97 in Woodland Park. Mike Stansberry is still in need of two people to coordinate the following activities:

1) the Sunday morning breakfast. Luci won't be coordinating it this year, and we need someone to coordinate it, or we don't have breakfast. Contact Mike at jms@col.hp.com or 636-1290 if you're interested in doing this MOST IMPORTANT activity. The MARC will be coordinating the Saturday evening cooking, so we'll all have dinner. Any takers for breakfast?

2) Mike also needs someone to coordinate the VHF/UHF station. Currently there is no one, so there is no VHF/UHF station. This would be a great opportunity for someone who is new to amateur radio to get familiar with radio operating and have plenty of help from the many other amateurs that will be up there. Again, contact Mike if you're willing to tackle the task.

If you need more information about Field Day, contact Mike.

PPRAA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM on May 14, 1997. After introductions, the treasurer's report was read. The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as printed.

Carlos KBØREI made a request for help with Swap Fest. Rosie WAØMNL talked about the hourly prizes.

Rob WB7WHT reported that there is nothing new the SAREX program, it is on hold for the time being. Sense the Club trailer is not used, and storage has become a problem, it was announced that the Board voted to donate it to AREAS.

Once again a request was made for a nominee for the office of Secretary. No response. The Hammy was presented to Carlos KBØREI. Carlos accepted it in the name of all those who have helped with the Swap Fest. Larry N9HSW accepted the Club trailer on behalf of ARES. He also stated that it would remain in the area. Rob WB7WHT reviewed his latest article in the Ø-Beat about the 501 (c) (3) tax status. A discussion followed with many questions from the floor.

After the break, it was decided that the current meeting location was no longer acceptable. Les KCØNC will try to obtain a new place.

Aaron introduced Mel WØTM, who presented a very informative talk and video tape program about the development of the World War II proximity fuze.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17

Submitted by Les KCØNC (acting secretary)

PPRAA May Board Meeting Minutes 19-May-97

The meeting started at 1910 at a new location: the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 N Circle Dr. This location could possibly be the new meeting location for the monthly PPRAA club meetings, pending approval from the church. We held our board meeting here to look things over, and it does seem pretty nice with plenty of room, chairs, and parking. There may be an occasional conflict with church functions, but other rooms in the church should be available if necessary.

Ron Deutsch NKØP has announced his candidacy for secretary since no one offered at the May club meeting. We'll have another election at the June meeting.

Bill Pierce KDØJU, our Ø-Beat editor, will be testing out his ability to receive data phone calls as an option to receive articles for the Ø-Beat. This'll help those without e-mail but with a computer. Also, his e-mail provider doesn't handle file attachments, and won't receive files over about 30Kbytes. He'll also have a substitute editor for June.

At 1945 Mark Richardson NØEPF left the meeting, assigning his proxy to Doug Moloney WBØMHP for the remainder of the meeting.

Greg Tarcza WA2OOD reported on his Dayton trip, and made some suggestions for our swapfest in 1998. While in Dayton, he married

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

the HP booth and talked with many of the Ø-call hams that stopped by. He estimates that we lost about 50-60 hams and several vendors due to us sharing the same date as the Dayton swapfest. Others attending the board meeting disagreed with the estimate of the number of hams that could have potentially attended our swapfest. We didn't want to move it to June, July or August, so other weekends in May were suggested, and the first weekend in May seemed most suitable. The board passed the following motion 7-1: The club picks the first Saturday in May as the permanent date for swapfests.

Other thoughts on the swapfest to consider for next swapfest: The Front Range doesn't support big attendances and many vendors. Radio Shack didn't come even though they were invited at the district office. We shouldn't expect HRO since it's believed their philosophy is that they lose money on swapfests. What about a bake sale? What if costs rise again? We should consider the 501c3. What about expanding the target group of people and/or having two raffles: radio and computer related? Why don't we sell raffle tickets at other clubs' meetings?

Harry Russell NØSFP will hold the trailer until the end of June. After that Larry Dunn N9HSW will take possession for ARES, and we'll transfer title. Harry will likely retain possession of the generators and other articles in the trailer. It was noted that many of the ARES registrants are PPRAA members,

so wherever the additional property was stored, the only property to transfer to ARES is the trailer.

Two club members didn't get their Ø-Beats this month, even though they received them last month. Les, Bill and Rob will check to see why this happened.

Carlos Caro KBØREI brought in some ARRL texts which were part of the consignment package for the swapfest. Ten percent of the proceeds from the sale of these books was originally intended to go to the club. However, a motion was made to offer the 10% as a discount to purchases made by club members. The motion passed 8-Ø. Carlos will bring the books to the June club meeting, and any unsold books, along with the money collected, will be returned to the ARRL in June.

A motion was made to have the club contact the staff at the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church to close the deal to allow the club to meet at the church. Motion passed 8-0. Renay Boyes KAØROY is one of the church's secretaries and will help to get things rolling. Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM will use his pizzazz to get the word out regarding the new meeting location. Once we've got a deal with the church, we'll make net announcements and lots of phone calls.

A suggestion was made to remove the board members' addresses from the Ø-Beat, leaving only their call, name, phone number and e-mail address. Since there was no

objection to this removal, Bill will remove this information with the next Ø-Beat.

The next program will be on traffic handling.

The topic of Field Day absolutely must be in the next Ø-Beat, and it must be discussed at the next club meeting, since Field Day is the last full weekend in June.

The board meeting schedule for the remainder of the club's year: June at Aaron's home, July at Dennis' home, August at Greg's home, and September at Rob's home.

Question from another club member is the status of the historian and his progress. Our current historian is Harvey Hunter WA3EIB. The questions were asked what progress has he been making and what historical items does he have? A more general question was asked: who has what historical items, since it's believed that Harvey doesn't have every historical item the club owns.

Discussion about the historian led to additional discussion about the relationship between ARES and PPRAA. We don't have enough of a public service presence at the club meetings. It was noted that in past years most if not all public service events were handled by PPRAA, especially long before there came to be an ARES group here. Lately it seems that the PPRAA is not doing anything with public service events. The general consensus is that the PPRAA and

Zero Beat

ARES should work together somehow to get public service back into the club meetings and into the club, but no specific actions or recommendations were made to change this situation. It was also suggested that maybe the ARES group and the PPRAA could go separate ways, similar to the PPRAA and a repeater group splitting up a number of years ago [group and date were not identified at the meeting].

Meeting adjourned at 2057.

Submitted by Rob Roller
WB7WHT.

TREASURER'S REPORT: for period ending 4/30/1997

For the general fund:

Income - Expenses = Net

Income/(Loss)

\$519.55 - \$896.36 = (\$376.81)

Contact me for a more detailed report. I also have a detailed report available on the hamfest income/expenses. Let me know if you want a copy of that. I can e-mail it or call you on the telephone.

501(c)(3): Well, as you know from the May club meeting, I wanted to hear from you with your comments on this tax exempt issue. I assume the details are in the minutes exactly what was said, but I'll try from memory to relate some of the concerns. I heard both pro and con comments. Doc mentioned he was concerned that we shouldn't take on something like this because we don't yet have a good handle on

the everyday club affairs (like why we can't get someone to volunteer to be secretary). Doug would like to see a budget before and after adding in the 501(c)(3) costs. I should be able to come up with figures based on 1996 and a proposed budget for 1997 by the next club meeting. There are some negative side effects, like having to provide financial statements for the past three years. Carlos thought we should consider the tax exempt status because of what happened with Liberty HS. They doubled the costs for non-tax exempt corporations. Dist 11 could do the same next year for Doherty HS. Personally I like the idea of tax-exempt because of the work I've done with SAREX/Mir this year. I know most people don't want to loan their equipment all the time, and the club can't really afford to buy a new or used VHF all-mode transceiver. Tax deductible donations or grants would be nice.

So there are certainly valid arguments to go either way with this. That's why I want to know what the majority of the members want. At the June meeting I'll propose a motion something like: "I move the members direct the board to continue to gather information related to the tax exempt status, begin work on the application process, and to develop a draft articles of incorporation and draft bylaws which would be submitted with the tax exempt application, such that the club can vote to approve/disapprove the new articles and bylaws at the next annual meeting in October 1997. No application shall be filed

until after an affirmative vote may be made at the next annual meeting."

I'm personally interested in this and I personally think it's in the club's best interests, but the club belongs to the members and we do what you want. I'm looking at this as a case of finding a better financial ground for the club to stand on. There are, however, other ways to raise money, such as our swapfest. But other than the swapfest, I don't know of any other ongoing fundraising activities. So, the swapfest is our only real source for funds. I recently told the board that the annual dues don't adequately cover the club's operating costs. For example, if you consider that our dues (\$15 per full member, \$12 for senior member) only amount to \$1 to \$1.25 per member per month, and that our 0-Beat costs an average of \$0.95 per issue, one can see that each of us contributes only about thirty cents per month to the other activities. We contribute thirty cents per full member (or 3.60/yr) and \$0.05 per senior member (or sixty cents/yr). Now multiply that our membership size and you can figure what we have left. Perhaps Les can let us know how many members we actually have.

So it's up to all of you. If you're interested either way in this issue you should come to the meeting. I'll be making a motion to see if there's enough interest in pursuing the issue further. If the vote is negative, I'll not go any further with this issue.

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Swapfest: The swapfest went off pretty well this year. As raffle manager, I'll gladly announce that 3 of the four prizes were won by locals who were also club members. Russ Calaway KBØFNM walked away with the antenna analyzer, Jody Borst KAØROZ took home the 6-meter transceiver, and Jerry Allen N5GVP won't get lost with his new GPS-40. The big prize, the Icom 707, however, went to Paul Passey WR7J of Radio Paul, one of our swapfest vendors. Congratulations to all!

-wb7wh

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UPGRADE YOUR HAM LIBRARY !!!!

ARRL publications will be available for purchase at the June club meeting.

PPRAA gets a small percentage of the sales, so increase your knowledge of selected subjects and help the club at the same time.

Carlos Caro KBØREI
Swapfest 98 Chairperson



Dits and Bits

FOR SALE;

Toshiba laptop computer.
Has hard drive and floppy disk.
Works good. Has near new battery.
KBØFNM, Russ 471-9965.

=====

FOR SALE:

- MFJ HF/VHF SWR Analyzer Model MFJ-249, 1.8 - 170 Mhz
Call Ginger, NØUOD at 528-8361 or email at ghipszyk@kktv.com
Price \$125 obo

=====

FOR SALE:

- Pentium 60 system. 16MB Ram. 2 Hard drives. CD Rom, Sound card w/ Koss speakers. Wang ext. Modem. CTX 14" monitor. Much software. All manuals. \$800 or Trade??
- ICOM IC 471A All mode base station for 430-450 MHZ. \$600.00
- High Quality Tru-Line wattmeter. (uses Bird Slugs) \$100.00 (includes one slug)
- KLM 32LBX 432 MHZ antenna \$100 (Aprox 20 feet long)

Ron NKØP 593-8352 e-mail deutschra@aol.com

=====

For Sale: by KØCI, Steve

- Kantronics KAM all-mode TNC version 5.0, Asking \$135
- Johnson Messenger 123A, 23 Channel CB Radio (Could be

converted to 10 meters)
Asking \$15
Call Steve at 598-3554

El Paso County HF Roundtable

Sunday evenings just after the El Paso County RACES 7:30 PM (local) HF net, on 28.385 mHz.

Everyone is invited to check in.

SWAPFEST 98

Carlos Caro KBØREI

As a closure to Swapfest 97, I would again like to thank all who participated in the event. The committee members carried the load and did all that could be asked of them. The volunteer workers before and after the swapfest, without you, this event could not have been successful.

Per majority vote of the board, the date established for Swapfest 98 is the first Saturday, May 2nd. In order to attract a better turn out, we would like to have a fuller program line up and MORE publicity. We are therefore requesting that the members become talent scouts for any lecture or demonstration that would be of interest to the ham population.

Zero Beat

Any of you who travel out of our immediate area could take flyers to distribute. The more messengers we have the better the word will spread.

We would also welcome any suggestions you may have for making our swapfest an event that will attract the most attendance. I Believe that attendance is the ONLY way to induce the vendors (Big Names) to include us in thier schedule.

All this will hopefully build up to a GALA event for the year 2000.

Thank You,

Carlos Caro

OM/YL LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at HomeTown Buffet at 3650 Austin Bluffs Shops of the bluffs. Date is June 19. We always meet in the week following the monthly club meeting.

73

Rosie Calaway, WAØMNL
471-9965

*** Forwarded to all District 14 Members ***

From- "Richard A. Ferguson"
<raferguson@worldnet.att.net>
Reply To-
raferguson@worldnet.att.net
Subject- Incident Command Class
May 31

Our served agencies are moving to use the Incident Command System in major events, and we should become familiar with it to serve them better. I recommend that officers of ARES and other emergency service groups take this class.

Richard Ferguson
KAØDXM
Colorado SEC

Orientation to the Incident
Command System

Date: 31 May 1997, 9am - 3pm

Location: Long's Peak Conference
Room

FEMA Region 8 Headquarters
Building 710-A
Denver Federal Center
Kipling Street, South of 6th
Avenue (U.S. Hwy 6)
Lakewood, CO 80225

Course Description: This survey
course will cover the basics of the

Incident Command System (ICS) and comprehensive emergency management, as well as awareness-level HAZMAT training for first response teams and support personnel.

Presented By: This course is sponsored by the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association and the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management, in cooperation with the Region 8 National Security Emergency Preparedness Liaison staff and FEMA Region VIII Headquarters. Course instructors are experienced Incident Commanders from the Department of Defense, West Metro Fire Department, and Lakewood City Police Department, and are certified instructors in their fields.

Course Certification: Attendees who complete the course will receive Level 1 ICS/HAZMAT certification.

Who Should Attend:

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers and emergency coordinators Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) members DOD Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs) Civil Air Patrol communications and command

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support personnel Search and Rescue (SAR) team members
FEMA Region Staff

Pre-Registration is Required

The course is limited to 35 attendees. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. Registration requests must be received by 28 May 1997. You may register on-line at the following World Wide Web Site:

<http://www.disasters.org/ares.html>

To register by mail, fill in the following, and mail to:

DERA-ICS Class
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80501

Full Name:
Radio Callsign:
Affiliation / Organization:
Date of Birth (Required for entry into restricted area):
Mailing Address:
Phone:
FAX:

*** Forwarded to all District 14 Members ***

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Richard Ferguson
KAØDXM
Colorado SEC

The follow is a list of CRA nets.

Sun 9:00 AM, 145.160,
CRA Sunday Morning Net
10:00 AM, 53.050,
Six-Meter Invitational Net
7:00 PM, 145.160,
APRS Net

Sun 8:00 PM, 145.160,
Rocky Mountain Monitoring Net

Mon 8:00 PM, 145.160,
Colorado QRP Club
Information Net

Tue 8:00 PM, 145.160,
Edge of Space Sciences
Net

Wed 8:00 PM, 145.160,
Colorado AMSAT Net

Thu 8:00 PM, 145.160,
District 24 ARES Net
9:00 PM, 145.160,
Colorado TCP Net

Source: the CRA Electronic
Newsletter

Editor's Notes
Bill Pierce, KDØJU

Well it looks like spring is a little late; but its here!

Not much to report this month except that you will have a temporary editor for the July issue.

The editor and the editor's wife will be on vacation. For the July issue only please address your articles, news, and questions pertaining to the Ø-beat to Pete, WD7DHR. His email address is petepetry@aol.com and his phone number is 552-0429.

Also please send a copy of any articles to me for the PPRAA editorial archives.

As always I need more articles; the more the merrier, large and small.

See last months Ø -beat for article priorities.

Still haven't got the page scanner hooked up as I haven't had the need to.

So get those articles in!

73
Bill Pierce, KDØJU
Editor

Here's an article from the QRP-L mail list. Eric related his excitement in an earlier post about his first CW contact (which I'm sorry I deleted). This article followed and refers to his first contact and describes his woes installing a 40 meter dipole in

his attic.

I think this is interesting in that Eric is an Extra class operator. An Extra that is having his first CW QSO? I think that Eric is finding some fun in amateur radio that he has not experienced before. I think all of us can sense the excitement Eric felt by doing something new, so I hope you can publish this in zero-beat.

Thanks.

73 Dave Kurth NØUVR
dfk@col.hp.com
593-9686 home
590-5820 work

Here it is!

>From: ericvia@why.net (Eric Via)
Subject: Up In The Attic Blues
(Lessons Learned)

THANKS to all of you who responded to my original question ("Roof Or Attic")! I got some great feedback and some great ideas from SO many of you - thanks.

As for my first contact last night - thanks again to all who wrote and shared my excitement - I will respond to each of you soon!

UP IN THE ATTIC BLUES, by Eric Via, AD4SS

It's up there now - up in the dark attic - shining copper wire, stretched to perfection, hung with love..and from my first-ever contact last night to MA (I'm in Texas) - it WORKS!

I like to keep my hair VERY short - we're talking with a number ONE clipper, and so I had my wife cut my hair as she always does, out in the garage.

Shower? I can do that later - right now I wanna see what happens if I string this tangled up dipole carcass up in the attic!

LESSON LEARNED: It's probably NOT a good idea to have your hair cut and have hair stubble down your shirt and pants before going to crawl around in fiberglass insulation! Got it!? (probably MOST people don't need to be taught this lesson - but then you don't know me - spontaneous, silly, and "do first, think later" attitude"!)

I get up to the attic, my wife goes to bed:

I start setting up the dipole.

LESSONS LEARNED:
Bring all tools (string, nails, flashlight, coffee, hammer, knife) up to the attic WITH YOU!
Hair stubble in pants itches.
Insulation itches.
Copper wire SOMEHOW comes to life in the dark on the floor and tangles itself up in ways that Houdini himself couldn't get undone!
A 40m dipole is LONG!!
Attic space ISN'T that LONG!

I hung one end, stretched it all the way down, straight and true, and things are looking good...FB indeed!

LESSONS LEARNED:

Hair stubble in pants seems to have found a home in a place I don't care for it to be!

Where did I set my coffee??

32 years old may be young, but I sure can't stretch, climb, and bend like I used to! Oh youth - where are you!?

I hit the center of the dipole, and it was a straight stretch indeed - I'm a happy soon-to-be Ham Op!

I secured the center-feed, and planned my next stretch of the wire - it was looking good - an even better route for the next leg of the dipole was coming up - the roof goes up higher! (probably around 30feet up or more!) bad part is it's not as long as the first stretch.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Just because you untangle ONE end of the dipole doesn't mean you don't have to un-tangle the OTHER end! DOH! Coax Feedline must really love copper - because they were tangled up in each other like you wouldn't believe!

There's going to be some wide-awake rats, roaches, bats, and other critters in my attic because I do NOT know where I put down my coffee!

If you're one of those people who are "into" pain have your hair cut with clippers more often, and make SURE

that you don't brush the hair off your body either!

A heavy hammer stuck in your pants pocket of your jeans will cause gravity to be stronger on your jeans - thus pulling them down - this is really convenient if

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you want MORE insulation in your pants!

I continued my journey, untangling, cursing, itching, and it was getting exciting. I had to take a few bends of the dipole but nothing major - I'm sure it will affect my signal SOMEHOW but I'm not going to worry about it for now.

At one point as I sat untangling I took a minute to get philosophical...here I am, with a computer downstairs on safe ground. It's got a nice cool device on it that MODulates and DEModulates, I can send messages to darn-near anyone in the world with it, it costs very little per message, it's fast, efficient, and modern, and here I sit itching in a mountain of fiberglass insulation stringing a wire across my attic so I can use ancient Morse code to MAYBE talk with other people.

AM I FRIGGIN' NUTS!!!?!!?
HAVE I LOST MY MIND!!!?

And the people I'm going to be "talking" to have done this same crazy thing as me! They don't DESERVE to be talked to!!!

Now the good part comes - here's where Murphey's Law kicks in. (By the way my favorite law is: "Coles Law: Thinly-sliced cabbage")

I'm WAY in the back part of the house, about to put up the end of the dipole, I'm over my bedroom, I'm itching like a madman and cursing and sweating and I need a smoke.

Remember I said my wife (a very smart gal) went to bed!?

I'm being as quiet as I can - and I just KNOW the attic floor will give in and I'll fall right down on top of her through the roof. I even had it planned what smart-*** thing I was gonna say when this happened - (It was between - "We gotta stop meeting like this" - or - "Hey honey just thought I'd drop in and see you")

But I didn't fall through...this time...I think fate has it I will probably die in a nastier accident later...oh boy...perhaps fate also has it that my kids are meant to be father-less and that later I'll decide I want to set up a TOWER??

Okay my Weimarer Luke sleeps in my bedroom with us, and HE also decided to go to bed when my wife did, and Luke ALSO decided that the night I put up a dipole in the attic would be a fine time to suddenly become Mister Watch-dog!!

BARK GROWL BARK BARK
BARK RUFF BARK!

DOH!!

WHY!? Why me!? I can't figure out what to do - I can just picture my wife below sitting up in bed wondering what's going on - wondering why her husband isn't coming to tell the dog everything's okay.

I can't figure out if I should sit still and hope he stops barking, yell

down through the roof to the dog "it's ME - your master, up in the attic with insulation and hair stubble down my pants putting up a wire - be quiet!", or, simply go ALL THE WAY back across the attic, down the stairs, and shut the dog up. (I DO still have the hammer in my pocket)

I decide to go back down, and so I flirt with death even more and scamper all the way across the attic, run downstairs, and pull the dog from my bedroom and lock him in a spare room so he'll be quiet.

LESSON LEARNED:

Dogs don't care for people crawling around in attics (I don't either anymore) I'll pay for this with Mrs. Via in the morning.

To give this long (sorry) story a happy-ending - I finally finished up, got the antenna up wonderfully, took a shower, let the dog out of the room, apologized to my wife, never found my coffee, and left a pair of pliers in the attic.

Was it worth it!? YES! I had my first contact with my HW-8 and my attic dipole last night with AA1OK in MA!!!

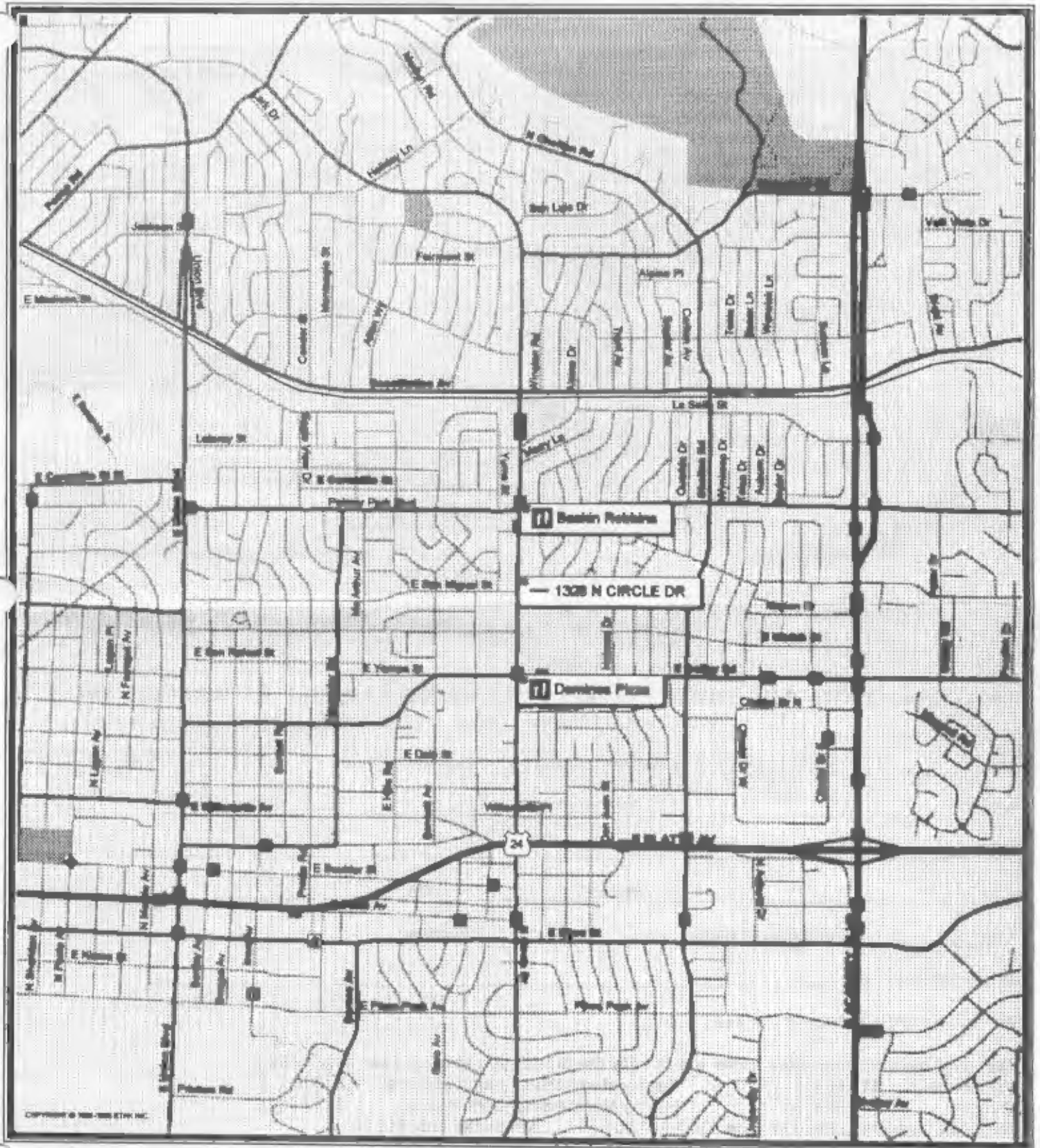
Now I SEE why you guys are crazy, and I see the thrill!

Stay tuned!

Yours in QRP,

Eric "Mr. Attic" Via AD4SS,
Wylie, TX

PPRAA Map to Mt Calvary Lutheran Church 1328 N. Circle Dr.



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